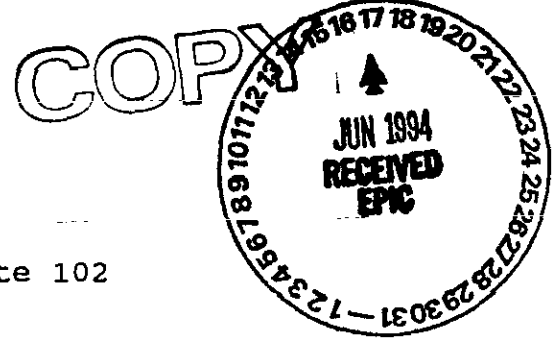




Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakima Indian Nation

0036852

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855



July 19, 1993

Mr. Dib Goswami
Department of Ecology
7601 W. Clearwater, Ste 102
Kennewick, WA 99336

Subject: HANFORD'S NORTH SLOPE EXPEDITED RESPONSE ACTION;
COMMENTS ON--

Dear Mr. Goswami:

Thank you for the opportunity to make preliminary comments on the "North Slope Expedited Response Action" (ERA). This ERA is in response to an agreement by Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the United States Department of Energy (USDOE).

1. A natural resource damage assessment should be conducted to determine the extent of injury to the natural resources in this area, as well as an estimate of the injury and damages following remediation.
2. The ERA should include action to remediate Treaty fishing sites on the shore of Columbia River within the North Slope area, as necessary. Such sites were actively used prior to the beginning of the Hanford project.

In considering the clean up activities and scenarios for clean up, the effects of air borne releases from the old reprocessing facilities to the south should be considered for cumulative contamination in the groundwater and soil. For example, zones on the North Slope where plumes of radioactive materials from reprocessing facilities in the 200 West Area impinged on the upward sloping ground should be checked for I-129 contamination in the soil and groundwater beneath the impingement zone.

3. DOE should consider applications of new technology when the mitigation alternative is determined to be appropriate. Such action is consistent with EPA rule 40 CFR 300.430 (a) (E) concerning RI/FS's.
4. An archeological and cultural survey should be conducted and attached to the required RI/FS. There are approximately 32 known archeological sites, including three burial sites, located in the North Slope area. These should be identified to cognizant cleanup

personnel via a non-public document, since the mitigation or removal activities may disturb or affect these sites.

Actions should be required to avoid disturbance of these sites. New sites revealed in the requested survey should be added to the list of known sites to provide an adequate base for conducting remediation/removal of contamination.

5. The selection of the clean up alternatives should assure that YIN rights for usage of the subject land and riverine area are in no way diminished now or in the future, beyond the time when institutional controls can be relied upon to protect human health and the environment.

Additional detailed comments are contained in Attachment A to this letter.

Sincerely,

F.R. Cook

F. R. Cook, Technical Analyst
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ATTACHMENT A: DETAILED COMMENTS TO YIN LETTER OF JULY 19, 1993
REGARDING HANFORD NORTH SLOPE REMEDIATION

cc. Jim Warner, DOE/EM (fax)
Thomas Grumbly, DOE/EM
Mary Riveland, WDOE
K. Clarke, DOE/RL
Jim Peterson, DOE/RL (5YP)
R. Jim ER/WM, YIN (fax)
M. Dick Squeochs, YIN
Carroll Palmer, YIN
Mike Bauer, YIN
C. Sanchey, YIN
Washington Gov., M. Lowry
U. S. Congressman, J. Inslee
U. S. Senator, P. Murray
Joe Stohr, WA Dept of Ecology
David Berick
Michael Campbell

ATTACHMENT A: DETAILED COMMENTS TO YIN LETTER OF JULY 19, 1993
REGARDING HANFORD NORTH SLOPE REMEDIATION

1. Several contaminants, including 2,4-D, JP-3 fuel, red fuming nitric acid (RFNA), aniline, hydrazine, heavier than diesel liquids and trichloroethylene have been associated with the Nike missile sites. Soil surveys should be conducted to determine if these contaminants are present and their danger to future generations and other users described in the subject ERA for all potential contamination areas. Sampling of sites is insufficient to assure that all sites are uncontaminated.

2. Further tests should be conducted at the land fill for the 2,4-D disposal site along the Columbia River to determine if the contents of the barrels have leached to the soils.

3. deleted

4. Further surveys should be accomplished to determine the DDT usage in the area. Although not having been used for years, it is still evident in the ecosystem. The July 15, 1993 issue of the Tri-City Herald, contains an article concerning excessive residual DDT in the Yakima River.

5. Residues of red fuming nitric acid (RFNA) were identified in the subject ERA as potentially having been discarded in acid neutralization pits, potential without neutralization. Nitrate levels in the ground water could be excessive as a result of disposal of nitrates. Each of these pits should be individually surveyed for nitrates; and, if any excessive nitrate is found in the soils, the ground water should also be surveyed to determine the need for groundwater remediation. Groundwater should in general be remediated to allow use for domestic purposes or for watering livestock, consistent with Treaty usage rights pertaining to the pasturing of stock.

6. All carcinogenic contaminants should be removed from the area or destroyed, including petroleum hydrocarbons and asbestos in order to provide safe access to YIN members exercising usage rights under the Treaty of 1855.

7. The ERA suggests that a flora and fauna survey will be conducted where ground disturbance will occur. We request that the YIN ER/WM Program be notified of these surveys to so as to allow YIN participation. These surveys are discussed in Appendix D, page D-3.

8. Although the North Slope remediation may not directly affect the Salmon spawning on the Columbia, care during clean up activities should be taken to avoid river pollution.

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9. The flora of the North Slope area, especially along the Columbia River, should be identified in a remedial investigation to identify species that are endangered and to provide information for improving the habitat and replenishing species lost because of Hanford operations. More specifically, two plants that are currently on the State endangered and Federal candidate species lists should be addressed. Columbia yellowcress (*Rorippa columbiae*), and the Silky northern wormwood (*Artemisia campestris* ssp. *borealis* var. *wormskioldii*) are on these lists. Populations of Columbia yellowcrest are known to inhabit shoreline sites along the Hanford Reach, including the North Slope. The Silky northern wormwood has been found further up the Columbia River and on the same side as the "North Slope" area. Although the silky northern wormwood has not been found on the Columbia Reach, surveys thus far have been minimal. Another rare species that is listed as State threatened and on the federal candidate list is the Columbia milkvetch (*Astragalus columbianus*). And this plant is near the "Riverland" area up the river from the "North Slope" area. Again none have been found in the "North Slope" area but that may be due to minimal surveys.